

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7172
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AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

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E.O. 11652: N/A
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SUBJECT: SADAT ON NEXT SIX YEARS

REF: CAIRO 9953

1. PRESIDENT SADAT MADE 30-MINUTE ADDRESS TO NATION SEPT. 19
IN RESPONSE TO REELECTION FOR NEXT SIX-YEAR TERM. WHILE OFFERING
NO NEW INSIGHTS OR GOALS, SADAT SET OUT WHAT WE BELIEVE IS HIS
GENUINE CONCEPTION OF HIS ROLE AS PRESIDENT.

A. PLATFORM. SADAT RECALLED EIGHT-POINT PROGRAM FOR EGYPT
FIRST PRESENTED IN HIS NATIONAL DAY ADDRESS LAST JULY (REFTEL):
PUBLIC SECTOR TO REMAIN BACKBONE OF ECONOMY BUT PRIVATE SECTOR
TO HAVE "COMPLETE" FREEDOM OF OPPORTUNITY; EACH INDIVIDUAL
MUST BECOME A PRODUCER; EGYPT'S "SOCIALISM" IS UNIQUE; POLITICAL
SYSTEM SHOULD BE DEVELOPED INTO PARTY SYSTEM; PRESS MUST BE FREE
BUT OWNED BY THE PEOPLE.

B. CONSTITUTIONAL LEGITIMACY ESTABLISHED. PRESIDENT
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CHOSE TO BEGIN HIS REMARKS BY OBSERVING THAT PAST SIX

YEARS HAD ACHIEVED GOVERNMENT BY LAW; EACH INDIVIDUAL IS FREE TO CRITICIZE.

C. "MISSION OF THE PRESIDENT." AS DEFINED BY CONSTITUTION, PRESIDENT IS HEAD OF FAMILY, ARBITER BETWEEN CLASSES AND ORGANIZATIONS, FINAL GUARANTOR OF FREEDOM TO EXPRESS VIEWS WHILE SIMULTANEOUSLY BEING RESPONSIBLE FOR MAINTAINING SOCIAL PEACE.

D. ONE VOICE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS. EGYPTIANS WILL CONDUCT INTERNAL DIALOGUE, BUT "WE ARE ONE CLOSED RANK BEFORE THE WORLD." ALL OCCUPIED TERRITORY MUST BE LIBERATED AND PALESTINIAN RIGHTS RESTORED.

E. CONSTRUCTIVE CRITICISM. EGYPTIANS MUST SET ASIDE MALICE AND SELF-INTEREST. "I ACCEPT WITH TOLERANCE ANY CRITICISM AND LISTEN TO ANY ADVICE" BUT DIALOGUE MUST BE CONSTRUCTIVE.

2. COMMENT: IN OUR VIEW, PRESIDENT'S REMARKS ACCURATELY REFLECT HIS DETERMINATION TO, IF NECESSARY, CHIVVY AND PROD HIS CONSTITUENTS INTO HABITS APPROPRIATE TO RESPONSIBLE CITIZENS OF A DEMOCRACY. SELF-INTERESTED TROUBLEMAKING MUST BE ABJURED SO THAT PRESIDENT CAN INSTUTE THE REAL DEMOCRACY FOR WHICH WE THINK HE IS AIMING. THIS, IN HIS CONCEPTION, IS A THREE-PARTY SYSTEM. AS HE ONCE REMAKRED, HOWEVER, HE WOULD NOT DARE TO EMBARK ON SUCH AN EXPIERIENCE UNTIL HE CAN BE SURE THAT EGYPTIANS WOULD NOT ACT PRECIPITOUSLY AS THE PORTUGUESE HAVE DONE.

3. PRESIDENT CHOSE NOT TO ADDRESS DIRECTLY THE CHIEF TOPIC OF CONCERN IN EGYPT TODAY, I.E., THE ECONOMY, THOUGH HE DID NOT BY ANY MEANS BACK AWAY FROM THE OPEN DOOR, REITERATING HIS DESIRE FOR EXPANSION OF PRIVATE SECTOR.

4. SADAT'S EMPHASIS ON EGYPT IS IMPORTANT. WHILE HE STRESSED THAT ARAB UNITY MUST BE GOAL OF ANY ARAB GOVERNMENT, HE ENDED WITH APPEAL THAT ALL EGYPTIANS SHOULD MOVE FORWARD "IN THE SERVICE OF EGYPT, OUR EVERLASTING EGYPT..."

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